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Identical letters dated 25 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing upon the instructions of my Government to bring the following to your kind attention.

Terrorist organizations have been using safe havens in Syria and Iraq to generate financial resources, train militants and launch cross-border attacks. Their activities constitute a clear threat to regional stability and to the national security of Turkey.

The PKK terrorist organization and its affiliates continue to operate in Syria and Iraq, target Turkish citizens, violate Turkey's border security and infiltrate into Turkish territory from their hideouts in northern Iraq and northern Syria.

Hundreds of Turkish citizens fell victim to the suicide bombings carried out by PKK and affiliated terrorists that were trained in PKK/PYD/YPG-controlled areas in Syria and PKK camps in Iraq. The terrorists based in Syria have also launched and recently intensified cross-border attacks against Turkish border guards, using anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, sniper and mortar shells.

Against this background, in the early hours of 25 April 2017, the Turkish Air Force undertook a military action on the positions of PKK and its affiliates in Sinjar, Iraq, and Karachuk, Syria, that were used directly and deliberately for targeting Turkey.

This measure was essential not only in terms of safeguarding Turkey's border security and national security in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defence as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, but also within the context of the responsibility attributed to States Members of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism.

I would like to underline that Turkey, being unequivocally committed to the territorial integrity and unity of Iraq and Syria, undertakes this measure with a view to contributing to and furthering these basic principles.

While conducting the operation, the Turkish Air Force surgically targeted PKK and its affiliates and took all the necessary precautions to avoid civilian losses.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

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